

DANGER TO THE WORLD.

China a Menace to the Civilization of All Lands.

Japan Within Her Rights in Her Efforts to Maintain a Hold Upon Corea — Exclusive Nationality of the Chinese.

Sir Edwin Arnold is a warm partisan of the Japs, but he had the privilege of witnessing the grand army maneuvers of some two or three years since, and no one will deny to him a knowledge of the interior economy of the country. Sir Edwin Arnold, says the London Daily Graphic, will not countenance the belief of Mr. Curzon that the Japanese government is desperately occupied with domestic politics.

"I am surprised that so intelligent an observer should not have known how little the Japanese houses of parliament count socially or politically against the policy of those ministers whom the emperor appoints and whom he removes at his sole pleasure. When the deputies make themselves impossible they are simply sent home; when they refuse supplies public funds are taken quietly on account; and when they bring things to a deadlock the emperor and his advisers carry on the business of the country, after dissolving parliament, which, amid all these vagaries—the lively working of new and generous wine—remains steadfastly loyal and ardently patriotic."

That the two countries had equal rights in Corea, and that when one increased its force the other was bound to do the same, was the writer's contention—in short, that Japan has done and is doing precisely what England would have done under the same circumstances. "In the present struggle Japan unquestionably stands the champion of progress, of justice, and of international development, so that the partisanship shown in certain quarters against her has in it an element of stupidity which cannot, therefore be easily excused." More interesting than this, though, is Sir Edwin Arnold's reminder of one of the forces "which more potently tends to hold China together in her intense and exclusive nationality," namely, the extreme anxiety of the Celestial to be buried at home. "But if some high ecclesiastical authority, or the Vermillion Pencil itself, should decree as they well might, that Confucius should be satisfied if a pinch of Chinese dust were thrown into the foreign grave—then the floodgates would be open to a general Chinese immigration into all lands."

"One perceives how heavy the obligation is, and at the same time how binding, when again and again, at San Francisco and other ports of embarkation, Chinese passengers are stopped carrying in a carpet-bag or a hat-box the bones of their relatives. But when any such general emigration of Chinamen occurs as that which I am forecasting, it will be a social and industrial deluge. The markets of the world will be literally swamped with the

most industrious, persevering, fearless and frugal specimens of mankind who will everywhere underbid labor and monopolize trade, as they have done in Singapore, Penang and many other spots. The danger to civilization that China represents consists in this rather than in her unwieldy strength and slothful resources, the inefficiency of which for actual service Japan has already exposed by the brilliant commencement of the present campaign.

"For these and other reasons it is to the interest of the civilized world that China should not become more homogeneous or any larger than she is at present, and above all that she should not intrigue with the second colossal standing menace to human progress, the Russian empire, against the freedom of the Pacific. That German journal had the true instinct in scientific politics which lately wrote that, in the war just declared, the sympathies and good wishes of civilization were due entirely to the side of Japan."

Treasured Presents from the Queen.

Jewelers to Queen Victoria have a soft snap since her craze for theatrical performances at Windsor. It is opined that diamond brooches and bracelets must be bought by the gross, as her majesty always pays the artists in these tokens of her consideration and appreciation of the show. Many are the favored stars who now own a queen's brooch, and who look on the gift as a lucky piece ever after. It speaks well for their loyalty and the beauty of the jewel that the recipient always says it shall never leave the family, but become an heirloom from that time forth. The worth of these souvenirs rarely varies in price, but they vary in design, and the artist who receives a crown in diamonds and rubies with the initials "V. R. I." from the royal hand deems the honor worth living for. Mme. Sigrid Arnoldson received one of these brooches when she sang in "Philemonet Baucis" recently, and Mrs. Kendal has one like it which she told some friends was placed in her dress by the queen herself, when the Kendals were commanded to play at Windsor seven or eight years ago.

Cataract Victims.

Four of the most eminent men in Europe are at the present time suffering from partial blindness. In all cases the nature of the ailment is the same, namely, cataract, and all the illustrious patients are hopefully seeking relief in the resources of medical science. Mr. Gladstone has had several operations performed upon one of his eyes, the result of which, it is believed, will be almost fully to restore his vision, while the other eye is still sound enough to enable him to read and write. Sir William Harcourt's eyes are both much obscured, and must soon have relief or be altogether darkened. He will presently place himself in a surgeon's hands. M. Jules Simon is in a like plight, but hopes to have the opaque veil entirely removed. And Sig. Crispi, in whose case the ailment has not proceeded quite so far as in the others, has already sought the services of a skilled oculist.

ELECTRICITY ON THE FARM.

Country Life May Be Made Less Laborious by a New Agency.

Part of the growing difficulties occasioned by the desertion of the country and the crowding of the cities will be remedied, perhaps, by six years hence—in that wonderful year 1900, which electricians set as a mile post of human progress—by the crowning of steam's rival, says the New York Press. Machinery is rapidly taking the deadening drudgery out of farm work when conducted scientifically and on a large scale, and is causing it to attract the attention of city people who long for the healthful fields. Only the bodily discomforts of farm work have prevented an exodus from the city to the country. Already electricity is turning its attention to the long neglected farm work, and has discovered profitable results to be had by subjecting crops to currents of electricity. It is beginning to simplify the ponderous farm machinery, and as soon as the storage battery has received its finishing touches and can be applied to lightening the farmer's toil and increasing his profits the farmer will be looked upon with envy by the prisoners of city streets and counting house walls. Those particular effects of electricity upon farm machinery and farm life are, however, visible chiefly in the imagination at present, and are not at all likely to be realized in six years; but one great change may be looked for in this direction in the immediate future, and that is the improvement of the farmer's condition by means of good roads and the rapid transit which electricity is almost ready to bring, thus greatly enlarging his market and bringing him higher prices for fresher products, and also bringing him closer to the life and pleasures and stimulating effect of the city. There is to be a wonderful change in farm life in the more thickly settled parts of the country in a very few years, and rapid transit will be largely responsible for it. The cheap transmission of electrical power must bring soon many changes that will be felt in the city household, and perhaps the chief of them will be the abolition of the cook stove as it is known at present. The small electric heater has already begun to take its place, and it is almost certain that even in six years coal will be banished from a majority of the kitchens in cities adjacent to water power from which electricity is generated. When heat is wanted for cooking purposes it will be had at a moment's notice by the pressing of a button.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

Vastness of Some of the Greater Stars of the Pleiades.

If our sun were removed to the Pleiades it would hardly be visible in an opera glass with which nearly 100 stars can be seen in the cluster. Sixty or seventy Pleiades surpass our sun in brilliancy, Alcyon being 1,000 times more brilliant, Electra 500 times and Maia nearly 400, says Longman's Magazine. Sirius itself takes a subordinate rank when compared with the five most brilliant members of a group the